

SPECIAL EDITION:

Parkville Leads The Way to Hartford's Future

PARKVILLE MARKET



The new Parkville Market is just the first phase of a series of developments that will transform Parkville into a true 21st century urban neighborhood

BY ANDY HART

It was only about a decade ago that Hartford businessman Carlos Mouta took over a run-down strip mall at the corner of Laurel Street and Park Street and turned it into Pope Commons, a vibrant retail center that is still going strong 10 years later.

Mouta also redeveloped the old Hartford Rubber Works factory at the corner of Park Street and Bartholomew Avenue into a complex of retail space, offices and upscale loft apartments.

Just a few weeks ago, in the teeth of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mouta and his daughter, Chelsea, opened the 20,000-square-foot Parkville Market, the first food court of its kind in Connecticut. The market started with six vendors; now it has nine (see page 5). These vendors aren't extensions of the typical shopping mall chains, they are local restaurants that reflect greater Hartford's ethnic variety, from Puerto Rican cuisine to pizza to American barbecue. And more are on the way, including a coffee shop and a cheese board. The Parkville Market is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am-9 pm and Sunday, 11am-8 pm. For more information, go to: parkvillemarket.com.

While the COVID-19 outbreak certainly dampened the market's opening, Mouta said its numerous separate rooms and large outdoor dining areas makes it better equipped to comply with social distancing



After converting the old Bishop Ladder building into the new Parkville Market (center, foreground) Hartford Developer Carlos Mouta is planning to transform its two neighboring buildings, 1390 and 1420 Park Street.

regulations "than any restaurant." In addition to its food vendors, the market has room for two indoor bars as well as 190 parking spaces and two outdoor dining patios. Private dining rooms are also available.

Since opening, several local musicians have performed at the market, making it one of the first Hartford venues to host live music since the COVID-19 shutdown began in March.

For many, the Parkville Market is a sorely needed investment in neighbor-

hood development, the kind of development usually reserved for Downtown.

For Mouta, it's just the beginning.

His overall goal is to complete the transformation of the area around the Parkville Market into a walkable, vibrant urban community with enough retail, residential and entertainment opportunities to compete with anything the suburbs have to offer.

"In a few years, this area will be a destination," he said.

Continued on page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

MARG Meets TONIGHT

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) will hold its monthly meeting at 6 pm on Thursday, July 9, in the lower level of Saint Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford. Public safety and other neighborhood issues will be discussed at the meeting. This is the group's first public meeting since March. For more information, call Hyacinth Yennie at 860-296-5543.

Albany Avenue Roadwork July 12-31

As part of the Albany Avenue Streetscape Project, the avenue and its side streets will receive their final repavement this month. Roadwork will be conducted at night to ease traffic congestion, from 7 pm to 6 am, Sunday nights through Friday mornings. The repaving is expected to run from Sunday, July 12, through Friday, July 31, and will include Albany Avenue from Oakland Terrace to Bedford Street and the side streets in between. During this repaving, please look for NO PARKING notices and note the dates and times. In addition, regular daytime construction work will continue in the area from 7 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday. For more information, call Kimberli at 860-263-8533.

HPL Offers Online Citizenship Classes

Hartford Public Library will begin offering online U.S. citizenship classes starting next month. Classes will be held on Saturdays, starting July 11, from 1 to 3 pm. Class registration is required by texting or calling 860-490-8402 or reaching out via e-mail to learning@hplct.org.

Bushnell Park Foundation Seeks Volunteers

The Bushnell Park Foundation is currently seeking volunteers to keep downtown Hartford's premier park clean and beautiful. Up to 10 volunteers at a time are welcome to ensure we will have you working at a safe distance from your fellow volunteer. The priority project right now is mulching and weeding the garden beds that rim the north side of the Park. To learn more, go to: signupgenius.com/go/10c0a44acac23aafa7-bushnell

Phone Line to Report Illegal Fireworks

The City of Hartford has created a dedicated phone line for city residents to report illegal fireworks in their neighborhood. Call 860-757-0000 or text 860-294-8233 with specific information about where fireworks are being launched from – not only that fireworks are going off near-by. Message and data rates may apply to text messages.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Responses to AHNA’s Column on Civilian Police Review Board

This letter is in response to a recent op-ed published by David MacDonald, the executive director of the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association, regarding his organization’s concerns related to Hartford’s Civilian Police Review Board. While AHNA claims to have done “hours of research” into the recent functioning of the CPRB, as the newest voting member, I feel that several easily-verifiable points of fact were presented in a misleading manner. In particular, the suggestions that the board has failed to regularly meet in recent months or achieve voting quorums and/or regular commissioner attendance, and the insinuation that current board members are participating more for political credit than concern about fair policing in Hartford are problematic. During my tenure with the board since last spring, we have had a quorum at every scheduled monthly meeting and have been able to successfully review approximately 12-15 civilian complaints at each, significantly reducing the pre-existing case backlog. Meetings have naturally been postponed during the pandemic. During this time, the CPRB also lost its chairman, Abdul-Shahid Ansari, when he sadly passed away. Prior to the shutdown, however, we were making good progress on the backlog.

The personal attack on the current board members, who are volunteers trying to help better life in Hartford, diverts focus from what I believe are the actual core issues facing the board and the City. The first of these is the need to enhance our ability to more quickly and transparently report on the CPRB’s work to the citizens of Hartford, with more intuitive and descriptive meeting minutes and regular reporting on the details of sustained claims against HPD officers. The City appears poised to enact some of these changes, as Mayor Luke Bronin and the City Council have rightfully agreed to divert some HPD financial resources to the CPRB to enable us to more effectively investigate complaints, record meetings, and publish our decisions. But I feel there exist more fundamental problems regarding police oversight to which Mayor Bronin and others have recently alluded and which may actually get to the root of what the people of Hartford want and expect of the board’s role going forward.

Hartford’s police union contract is currently being deployed in ways that limit the CPRB’s ability to have “teeth” when it comes to ensuring full transparency and disciplinary oversight of HPD officers. This occurs in a couple of ways. Independent investigators who examine civilian complaints are not allowed to directly participate in interviewing the accused officers or, in some cases, in viewing all the available evidence from police interactions, such as camera footage. This serves as an impediment to the independent investigators’ and CPRB’s ability to fully examine all the circumstances of civilian complaints. Secondly, the union’s contract fails to allow for anything but recommendations by the CPRB around discipline or other corrective action related to civilian complaints. In practice, then, if the CPRB tried to recommend actions or reforms not agreed to by the Chief of Police and/or police union, the likelihood that such recommendations would be overturned in arbitration would be quite significant. We have seen recent egregious cases in which officers fired by the city return to their jobs after an arbitrated decision. In fact, Hartford is currently fighting one of these cases in court, and, based on existing court precedent, the City’s position is not strong.

While a challenging problem to solve, I believe that for the CPRB to function as intended to protect the rights of the civilians of Hartford, such underlying contractual issues must also be addressed and amended. Without reforming the existent power structure that favors the police union over the residents of Hartford, little, if anything, will change, regardless of who staffs the commissioner roles going forward.

Andrea Hartman, CPRB Member

I write to comment on the mayor’s proposals related to Hartford’s Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB), but first I want to correct an error in the open letter from AHNA published by Hartford News in last week’s edition (I had a hand in drafting this letter). It stated that the CPRB did not meet in 7 out of 12 months during both 2018 and 2019, and that so far in 2020 they have not met since January. The correct information is that the board did not meet in 7 out of 12 months during both 2018 and 2019, and so far in 2020 they have not met since February.


According to a recent WTNH story (“Hartford mayor pushes for subpoena power...” July 2nd), the mayor is proposing “an appeals process to challenge the chief’s findings” when the board sustains a complaint and HPD does not; that “the board [shall] conduct investigations at the same time as” HPD’s own internal investigation”; and that the board “put out quarterly reports about complaints against police.” These three proposals add up to making new work demands of the CPRB which has chronically failed to satisfy its current demands over the past 3 years, including the most basic requirements of holding twelve meetings per year and reviewing complaints within ninety days. That they fail to satisfy their current demands is completely by design and desirable to our mayor who aims to stop lawsuits, damage awards and settlements over police violence (see Hartford Courant article: “City Lawyers Withheld Dozens of Complaints Of Police Misconduct From Watchdog Panel”, Sept 2018).

Much ballyhoo will be made of giving subpoena power to the board, presumably so they can question officers who are the subject of complaints, and their accomplices. This may sound significant to the casual observer, but in reality guilty cops and their accomplices can simply ‘plead the fifth’ to any hard questions. At most this would empower the CPRB to obtain physical evidence and data, but such a notion presumes an independent, intrepid board which actively seeks the truth free of political influences.

The mayor’s proposals are distractions which do not address the root cause of CPRB’s ineffectiveness – political control of the board. This control arises from several circumstances: the mayor’s power to appoint 8 of 9 commissioners, as well as two alternates; the mayor’s power to select the chair; the mayor’s corporation council participating in meetings and regularly ‘advising’ the board which cases to table; the mayor’s power to dismiss any and all of his appointees as he did in 2017 during the investigation of Sean Spell and other officers for kicking Emilio Diaz while he lay handcuffed. Bronin has a history of elevating those who can be expected to ‘play ball’ – people with political or professional goals which he has the power to influence. Obedience is rewarded with support for political campaigns, city contracts, and jobs.

The mayor’s apparatchiks will be identifiable by their full-throated support for his proposals along with silence on mayoral control of the board through the appointment power. They might say things like “I fully support strengthening the board, but...” before inveighing against serious changes to strengthen the power and independence of the board. Ignore these hangers-on and instead look to the activists and those councilpersons who have been politically independent of the mayor and DTC for the serious ideas needed to bring independent civilian oversight to the police. Black lives matter and will depend on it.

Michael Barr, Asylum Hill



Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

Be Advised...Views of History and Laws Change with the Times

THE TIMES RECORD, TROY, N. Y., WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 11, 1946.

McGarry Fined.

Charles McGarry, proprietor of McGarry's Grill, 46 Third Street, was fined \$10 last night on his plea of guilty to a charge of selling alcoholic beverages during Primary Day balloting hours. The case, before Justice of the Peace J. Edward Burgess, had been adjourned after a previous plea of innocent. The grill owner had been arrested by State Police.

Today we seem to be in a rush to judge historical figures based on today’s norms or what is politically correct. Heroes of our childhood are now (often with faulty proof) defaced or made into monsters. Well, after finishing *The Presidents*, a book by C-SPAN which ranks all of our chief executives, it seems clear that just about every occupant of the oval office had “feet of clay.”

So, from my perspective, an arrest made a long time ago has besmirched my family name (see illustration). My grandfather was fined by Justice of the Peace J. Edward Burgess in the little village of Waterford, NY. Waterford is where the Erie Canal begins, where the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers meet and where many canal workers wet their whistles on Broad Street before the long haul up the canal to Buffalo. These days, closing your bar on a primary election day might just be offensive, not many votes can be bought with a shot and a beer (25 cents in those days at McGarry’s Grill) in these “modern” times.

History does indicate some real funny business on election days:

Hartford’s Morgan Bulkeley, who served as mayor, governor and senator, was proud of his \$5 grocery reward to Irish voters. 1964 landslide-winner Lyndon Johnson (according to Robert Caro) won by ballots signed in the same hand in alphabetical order. And several of our local state representatives saw elections changed by one vote after recounts.

We’ll all breathe a sigh of relief once our favorite watering holes reopen. From the Arena to the Half Door, from Park Street to Upper Albany, the missing seats on barstools takes conversations, flirts and friendships with your favorite barkeep away. Oh, for a freshly poured draft right from the tap!

So, be careful to judge your historic figures and the decisions they made based on the conditions and lifestyles they were familiar with in years gone by. Justice J. Edward Burgess, imagine how we’d judge you now.

And McGarry’s Grill became a doctor’s office and then a parking lot. That, to your observer, is true reason for civic disobedience.

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The revolving door of Directors at 550 Main Street

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Riddle: What has had five heads during the past 4 ½ years? Give up? It’s the city’s Departments of Public Works, Human Resources, and Development Services; a three-way tie. In all, there are 18 mayor-appointed Director positions that have been held by 50 individuals. A couple of those have held two directorships simultaneously, and a few others have been moved by Mayor Bronin from one department to another in some crazy game of Trumpian chess. But any way you slice it, that’s a lot of fresh faces and names to memorize, and requires frequent updating of the city’s website (if we’re lucky). Fortunately, we have Donna Swarr who knows you can’t tell the players without a scorecard. That’s why she created the one that appears elsewhere in this issue; it’s a must-read. Only three of the 18 have been with the mayor since his first term began in January 2016. In contrast,

several had tenures that lasted only a few months, including Interim and Acting Directors. The latter have a 6-month limit in those positions, but Reginald “Iron Man” Freeman was the Acting Director of DPW for nearly two years at the same time (!) he was also serving as Hartford’s Fire Chief. Throw into the mix a couple of “orphan” city departments in need of a mom or dad to love and nurture them; unfilled vacancies. And to add to the confusion Directors, by municipal mandate, must reside in Hartford, but that’s when the fudge factor often comes in handy. Since all of the above would probably take every column inch in this newspaper to explain, I’m going to zero in on the two most recent mayoral appointments.

On April 20th the mayor quietly appointed a new Director of Human Resources. I have yet to find anyone

Continued on page 6

THE HARTFORD NEWS

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SPECIAL EDITION: PARKVILLE LEADS THE WAY

Parkville Takes The Lead

Continued from page 1

With Parkville Market now up and running, Mouta is moving on to Phases II and III, the redevelopment of the two buildings on either side of the market.

To the west, 1420 Park Street will be transformed into the new home of Hartford Flavor, a locally owned and operated distiller of fine liqueurs that is currently located just around the corner on Arbor Street. The current plan is to add another floor to the building, along with a rooftop bar and outdoor ground-level spaces.

In addition to the distillery, to the east there will be an entertainment center in the 1390 Park Street building with approximately 30 different activities, from shuffleboard to simulated golf.

Following the redevelopment of 1390 and 1420 Park Street, Mouta will then concentrate on a series of developments along Bartholomew Avenue.

Mouta plans to develop the large lot located along Bartholomew behind 1477 Park Street, currently occupied by surface parking, into a new residential complex with approximately 70 units. Adjacent to this would be a large parking garage with room for 400-450 vehicles. The residential complex would face Bartholomew Avenue, the parking garage would be behind it, facing the CT Fastrak busway.

Farther down Bartholomew are two large former factories that Mouta plans to develop into housing. At the corner of Hamilton Street and Bartholomew Avenue is the former Whitney Manufacturing Company, which was originally built in 1906 and expanded several times over the next few



Hartford developer Carlos Mouta (right) talks with Mayor Luke Bronin at the opening of the Parkville Market in May.

decades. Mouta plans to convert the eastern portion of the four story building into approximately 190 residential units. The western part of the building, which is two-stories in height, will be devoted to space for start-up companies with the latest in digital technology, such as a “zoom room.”

Further south is another former factory at 169 Bartholomew Avenue, with over 70,000 square feet of interior space spread across four floors. However, although it was only built in 1954, its condition has deteriorated significantly over the years. Whether the building can be saved remains a “big if” said Mouta. He plans to install another 120 residential units on this property, whether through renovating the old factory or building a new structure.

As a result of all this development, Mouta said this small area, in which he includes the near-by Park Place Towers on Laurel Street, could have a total of approximately 1,000 housing units within just few years.

This influx of new residents generated by the residential units Mouta is planning to add is expected to stimulate further eco-

economic development in the Parkville/Frog Hollow area, as well as increase business for existing shops and restaurants.

Mouta said the building of a compact, walkable community in Parkville is in line with other successful projects, such as Blue Back Square in West Hartford Center. The mid-20th century trend toward strictly-zoned suburban communities which relied heavily on the automobile has been replaced by a “new urbanism” which is more diverse and environmentally friendly, places where walking, biking and mass transit take precedence over the automobile.

The new residential spaces Mouta is planning in Parkville are all a short walk from



Chelsea Mouta, Parkville Market's Director of Operations, chats with Governor Ned Lamont at a preview of the new food emproium in October 2018.

the CT Fastrak station at the corner of Park Street and Francis Avenue. Schools, churches, Real Art Ways and a wide variety of shops, restaurants and bars are also within walking distance, as is Pope Park and the Arroyo Recreation Center.

This development of Bartholomew Avenue will be greatly enhanced by a streetscape improvement project for the thoroughfare. The project, which is being undertaken by



Computer-generated graphic of the dense canopy lighting option for the Bartholomew Streetscape project, a joint effort of the City of Hartford and the Metropolitan District Commission. Currently in its design phase, construction on the project is expected to start next spring.

the City of Hartford and the Metropolitan District Commission and utilizes a state Transit-Oriented Development grant, is currently in the design phase. Construction of the Bartholomew Avenue Streetscape, which is being designed by CDM Smith, a global engineering and design firm, is expected to start in Spring 2021.

The project features enhanced lighting, including under the Park Street overpasses just west of the Bartolomew Avenue intersection; an ornamental gateway arch and various traffic-calming measures, such as bump-outs and speed tables. The goal is to make Bartholomew Avenue a more welcoming and friendly place for both pedestrians and cyclists. “When it’s done, this will be one of the most beautiful streets in Connecticut,” said Mouta.

Mouta's past successes and future plans have garnered praise from numerous state and city officials, including Governor Ned Lamont and Mayor Luke Bronin.

State Representative Minnie Gonzalez, a long-time Parkville resident, said “Hartford continues to increase its commercial standing while undergoing an overall economic resurgence; Carlos Mouta’s work to bring dormant properties back to life for multiple uses has been an indispensable component of this effort. His current work to renovate and make improvements to his old Parkville neighborhood opened additional doors for commercial, dining and entertainment from diverse backgrounds. I am pleased this development is part of the city’s landscape and positively contributing to the quality of life.”

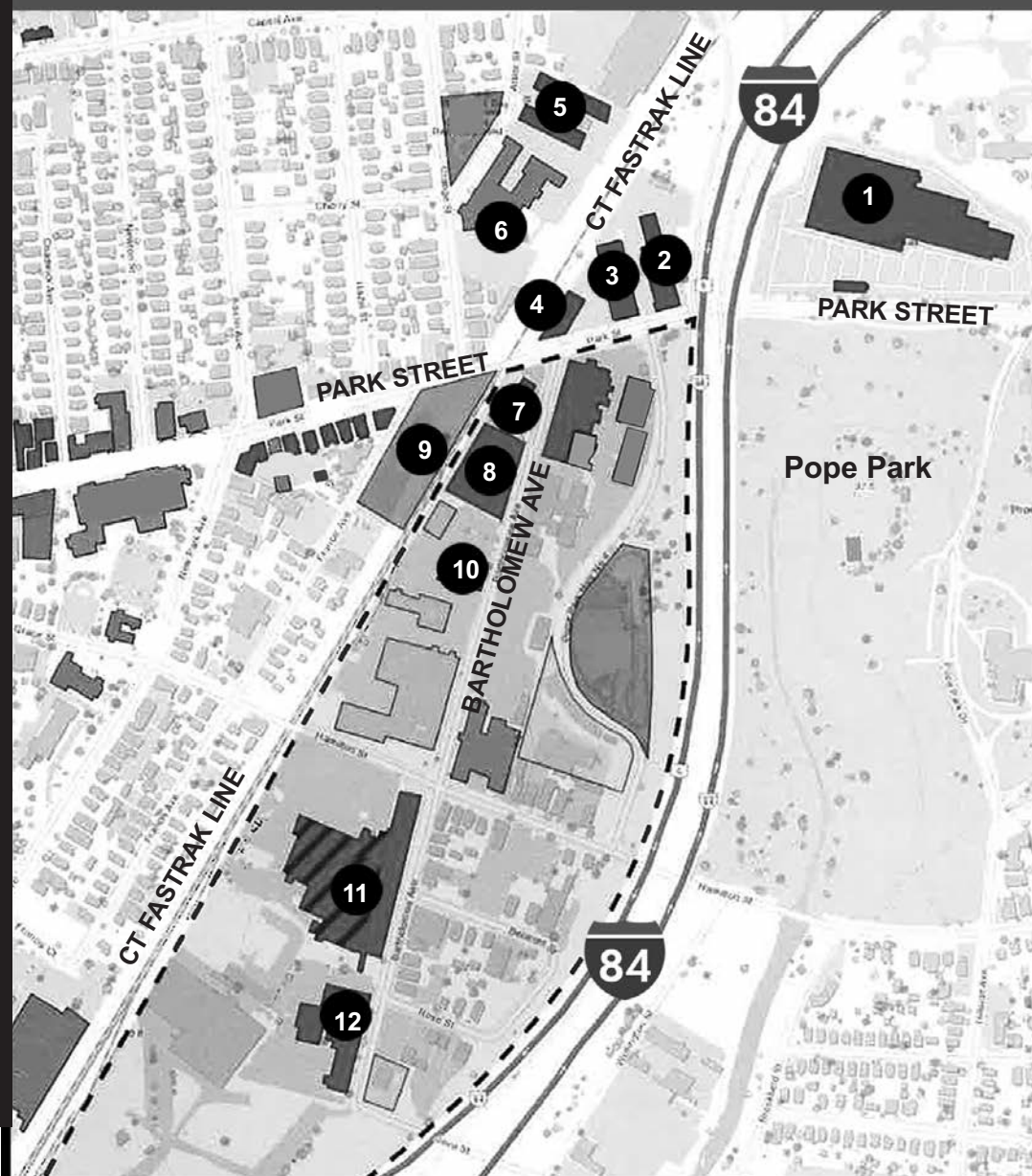
MAP KEY

- 1 Pope Commons Shopping Center
- 2 1390 Park Street
- 3 Parkville Market, 1400 Park Street
- 4 1420 Park Street
- 5 30 Arbor Street
- 6 56 Arbor Street
- 7 1477 Park Street
- 8 17-35 Bartholomew Avenue
- 9 CT Fastrak Parkville Station
- 10 Hands On Hartford
- 11 Former Whitney Manufacturing Company, 237 Hamilton Street
- 12 169 Bartholomew Avenue

**Proposed projects in
italic.**

PARKVILLE DEVELOPMENTS

And Other Points of Interest



SPECIAL EDITION: PARKVILLE LEADS THE WAY

Parkville USA: Story of a Neighborhood

In many ways the history of Parkville mirrors the development of America. Up until the end of the Civil War, the area was dominated by large farms. Then, in 1873, the Kane Brickyard was established off New Park Avenue. Other factories soon followed. Through the end of the 19th century and into the 20th, the neighborhood was dominated by massive factories, like Royal Typewriter, Hartford Rubber Works, Whitney Manufacturing and several others.

These factories employed thousands, many of whom moved to

Parkville in order to be within walking distance of their factory jobs. Shops and restaurants opened to serve these new residents, and churches and schools were built.

Parkville's factories were a magnet for new immigrants. The first wave was primarily of Irish, Germans, Scandinavians and Polish. Later waves included French-Canadians, Italians, Jews, Armenians and many more.

Everything bustled along in Parkville until the 1950s and 1960s when the factories started to out-source more and more of their work

overseas and to other parts of the country where wages were lower. One by one, the neighborhood's factories shut down.

Parkville declined, but survived. The rise of the automobile meant people now longer had to live within walking distance of their jobs, and many residents became commuters along the recently built interstate highway system.

But the immigrants kept coming. In the 1960s and 1970s, Hartford's rapidly growing Portuguese-American community made Parkville its home. Many have moved on to the suburbs since then, but many have stayed, as have their businesses, such as Bairrada Bakery and Alves Auto Body.

The international flavor of the neighborhood kept it popular with immigrants from all over the world. Peruvians, Brazilians, Vietnamese, Africans and many others have all come to Parkville over the last few decades and left their mark.

In the late 20th century, many of the neighborhood's old factories



Traditional dancers at a Peruvian religious festival on New Park Avenue reflect the neighborhood's tradition of welcoming immigrants.



Parkville is still home to many Portuguese-Americans as well as the annual Day of Portugal Parade.



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Real Art Ways (RAW) played a large part in promoting Parkville's artistic side and attracts many visitors to the neighborhood, such as these people at RAW's monthly Creative Cocktail Hour.

were renovated and repurposed, a process that continues until today. The old Underwood Computing Machine Company on Arbor Street is now home to Real Arts Ways and a host of graphic designers, photographers and other artists. Its neighbor, the old Gray Telephone Company building, now houses a distillery, a dance studio and several non-profit organizations. Hartford Rubber Works now contains upscale apartments, an interior design center and a restaurant.

All this artistic energy eventually made Parkville one of the areas most trendy neighborhood as people grew tired of their commutes to the increasing distant suburbs.

As a result, the newest group to make Parkville their home is mainly young people. And as more and more people discover the advantages of working from home, a process which has been accelerated by the COVID-19 shutdown, Parkville may soon become a walking neighborhood once again – except now the commute to work won't be a few blocks but just a few steps, from your bedroom to your home office.




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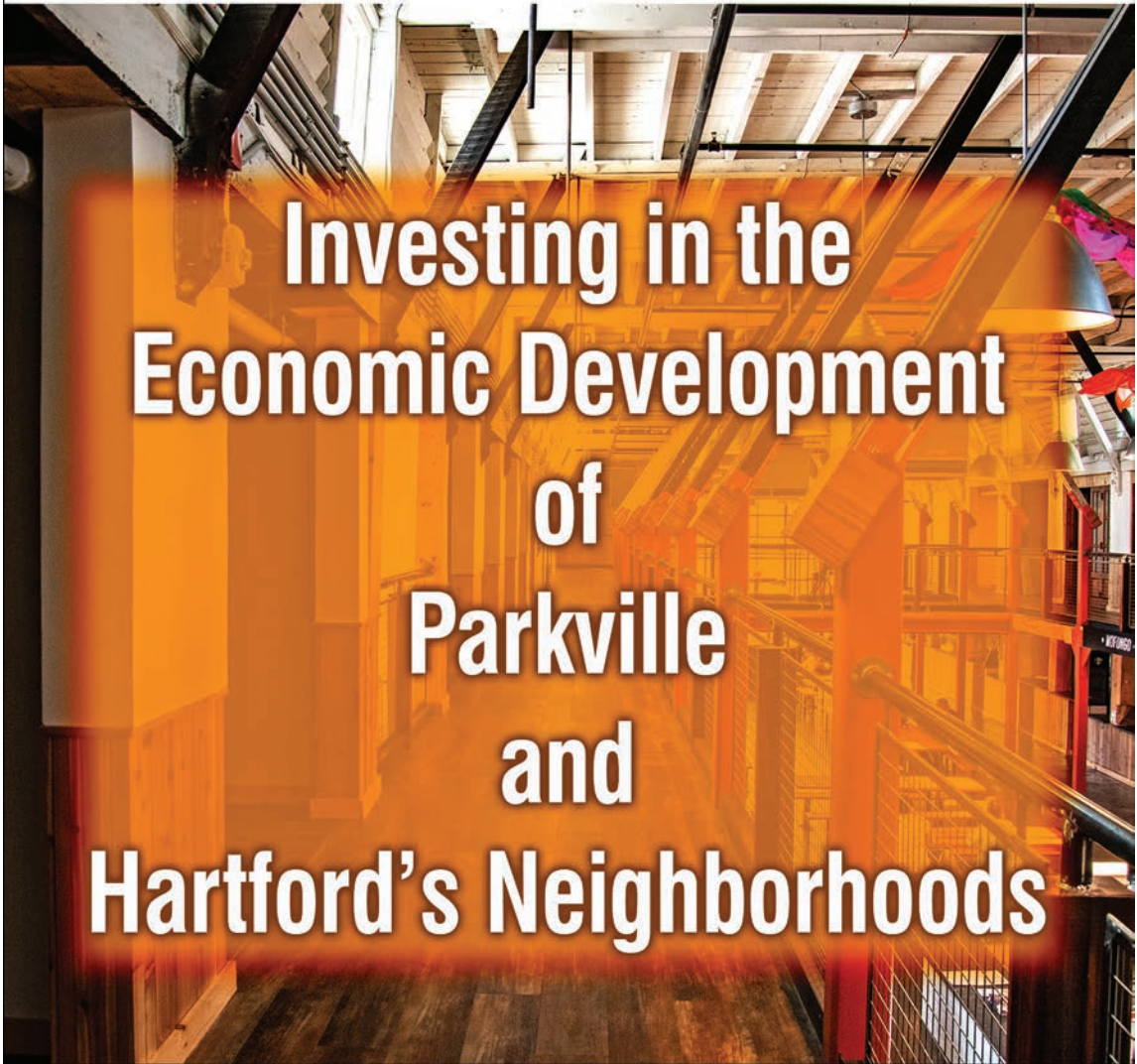
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SPECIAL EDITION: PARKVILLE LEADS THE WAY

PARKVILLE
MARKET

Current Vendors











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City Department Heads

Continued from page 2

who can remember any resolution from the mayor naming Thulani LeGrier to that position appearing on a City Council agenda, nor any public meeting held where he was interviewed by the nifty nine, both of those being standard operating procedure. In fact, just about no one outside of City Hall was even aware of his existence until four days ago, when he called for the Internal Audit Commission’s Lead Auditor Craig Trujillo’s firing, due to alleged “workplace misconduct”, a charge that was later debunked and dismissed by the IAC’s three non-mayoral appointed commissioners. The attention-grabbing move by newbie LeGrier was puzzling, and some posited that he’d been put up to it by the mayor because the IAC was deep into a potentially damning investigation of HPD Chief Jason Thody’s well-documented and full of factual holes city-owned vehicle accident on May 31st. The commission is known for holding miscreants’ feet to the fire, which can result in generating ugly publicity for the administration. When questioned about this theory, also put forth by Trujillo, Mayor Bronin denied any involvement in the case, according to the Hartford Courant. LeGrier answers to Chief Operating Officer Thea Montanez who answers to the mayor; as far as I know, no one has put that question to her yet. LeGrier has had some HR experience from a similar position he held in the Hartford Yard Goats organization. The majority of his duties there would be overseeing the selection of candidates for the hot dog, ticket, and YG merchandise selling jobs, and their work performance in those jobs, which wouldn’t necessarily translate to hiring well-compensated and generously-benefited city staff. We might surmise that with no baseball being played here this season, he was in need of a job, and Bronin came through for reasons only he—or the COO, LeGrier’s boss—would know.

Moving on to the Department of Development Services, it came as

a shock but not really a surprise to city residents when earlier this week, Bronin named West Hartford resident (but spitting distance from the Hartford border) I. Charles Mathews as Acting Director (expiration date January 20th, 2021)—a \$140,000 per year job. Mathews, a well-known figure around these parts, has no identifiable experience in the art of development. The law school graduate who didn’t pass the bar exam and has never practiced the law has worked in Equal Employment Opportunity positions, but like LeGrier is more closely associated with the Yard Goats, having served as the Chairperson of the hastily-assembled and ill-conceived Stadium Authority since its inception in 2015. Mathews has also been credited by many as having been on team owner Josh Solomon’s payroll as a brand ambassador/shill for the stadium deal prior to that. He was also prominent in Hartford politics about 40 years ago when he was elected to City Council and then named Deputy Mayor. At that time, councilors earned about \$10,000 a year, paid out monthly. Mathews asked for his entire year’s salary up front, the result being a story in the newspaper dubbing him “Upfront Charlie”, a moniker that—to his annoyance—stuck, even though his request wasn’t granted. His son Brian has also worked under the Development Services umbrella in the Housing Department, but now Brian can tell his dad “You aren’t the boss of me!” because the mayor has made sure that he has been moved, more or less laterally, as a direct report to someone else; COO Montanez.

There are 125,000 stories in the Insurance City. These are just two of them.

The opinions expressed here are from the standpoint of my work as a journalist and as a city resident, and do not reflect my employment at any other entities, or their mis-

Some Amenities to Reopen in Hartford Parks

DONNA SWARR

Under Connecticut’s Reopening Phase II and III, use of some city park amenities will be coming available. But they come with some restrictions, and require methods you must use as a precaution to spreading the virus. Parking areas and entrances to city parks will be open (with the exception of Colt Park due to construction equipment traffic). Recreational amenities that are being reopened include all playscapes, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, and splash pads. The City has made the decision to not open the swimming pools because it didn’t believe that it could manage to meet all of the CDC and State of Connecticut COVID-19 requirements. And as Monday July 6th, the State also pulled back the reopening of public pools. There are a couple of splash pads that need maintenance and will open at a later date; those include Forster and Hyland Parks. The Colt Park splash pad is having work done, due to a problem during construction. As the pool is not open, a different entrance to the splash pad will be used this year, to be announced after the work is finished. Yoga in the City will be back in Pope Park on Saturdays and Colt Park on Sundays at 10 am. Many porta-potties are being reinstalled in the parks, and will be cleaned twice a week. Signs have been posted in the parks in English and Spanish reminding people to keep a 6-foot socially distance, wear a face covering, wash or sanitize hands before and after visiting the playscapes, and to stay home if anyone in your household is sick.

The city’s athletic fields will be reopened for organized play on July 13th. The MyRec reservation system was reactivated on June 26th and will allow field users and leagues to reserve fields, make payments, submit rosters, and submit required insurance certificates in

advance of the July 13th reopening under the existing prioritization process based on the city’s tier-based system. Tier I users began making reservations on Friday, June 26th; Tier II will begin on Wednesday, July 1st and Tier III users began making reservations Monday, July 6th. Colt Park’s softball and baseball fields are under construction and cannot be used. One of Colt’s soccer fields is expected to be under construction this fall and therefore there will be one less soccer field available. The COVID-19 requirements will be shared directly with the organizations that are booking the fields, and like everything else, these may change over the summer.

Summer “kamps” under the Recreation Division are still under development. You may be aware that the COVID-19 requirements for daycare services are stringent, and the kamps have to follow the same requirements. They are planning that the Summer Kamp program will be offered at locations in or near each of the city’s large parks. In addition to the Summer Kamp program, a modified program will be offered focused on spray pads this year. Recreation staff will be available Monday through Friday from 2 to 5 pm at Columbus Park (680 Franklin Ave), Cronin Park (Granby & Durham Streets), Day Park (Arbor & Orange Streets), Forster Heights (Amherst Street), Goodwin Park (South Street & Maple Ave), Hyland Park (New Britain Ave), Keney Park (Woodland & Greenfield Streets), Keney Park-Waverly (Waverly Street), Pope Park North (Putnam & Russ Streets), Sigourney Park (Sigourney Street), and Windsor Street (697 Windsor Ave). Stay tuned for the announcement for registration.

Get out to our parks and enjoy them on your own, or with your friends and family!

Progress at Colt Park

Work is fully underway at Colt Park, and a visit to the park reveals a substantial amount of it completed since May. With the weather cooperating, the Colt Park Phase 1 Improvements project is on schedule in spite of unexpected repairs that were needed to waterlines that supply the park’s irrigation.

To date, contractors have expanded the outfield of Roberto Clemente Field and have re-graded its infield with new infield soil. The field also has new asphalt pathways connecting to its bleachers. Additional work will soon happen, including expansion of—and improvements to—the irrigation system, installation of LED field and security lighting, and new fencing.

While construction began with Roberto Clemente Field, other work in the park has also been advanced. This includes the installation of a new asphalt pathway connecting the parking lot to the

playground, basketball courts, and the north side of the park. The new pathway provides access through the park, between Wethersfield Avenue and Coltsville. The central pathway between Roberto Clemente Field and the baseball field remains closed for field construction. New decorative lighting has also been installed in the parking lot. Excavation for the lights carefully avoided the root structure of the London Plane trees that line the parking area.

Work also continues on the baseball field where thousands of cubic yards of soil are being screened, blended to specifications, and spread as part of a complete rehabilitation of that field. Contractors also recently began replacing backstops at the softball fields. Additional planned work includes improvements to the pathway at the east entrance of the park. The pathway improvements are expected to

be conducted this fall, once work is complete on the soccer field. That rehab is a separate project but is anticipated to begin this summer.

The goal of the work schedule is to complete all earthwork in time for seeding of the fields in September, the optimum time for seeding. Establishment of the turf this fall will enable play on the fields in the spring of 2021. While Colt Park, like other city parks, has recently reopened, the baseball and softball fields currently remain closed. The parking lot will also remain closed during construction. Visitors are encouraged to park on Wawarme Avenue, where ample on-street space is available. The City will continue to coordinate with leagues regarding resumption of league play at Colt Park in 2021. For specific information regarding the availability of fields in the city, visit www.hartfordct.myrec.com, the City’s Parks and Recreation field scheduler.

CRCOG Bid Notices

All bid notices for the Capitol Region Purchasing Council are available at <https://crcog.bonfirehub.com/>. CRCOG is also requesting proposals for services for Crumbling Foundations. If you have any questions, please contact the office of the CRPC 860-724-4292, or e-mail crpcstaff@crcog.org. The towns reserve the right to reject any or all bids, or any part of any or all bids, if such action is deemed to be in the best interest of the towns.

Hartford Land Bank Requests for Proposals

The Hartford Land Bank, Inc., a Connecticut nonstock organization and 501(c)(3) nonprofit established to be a land bank operating in the city of Hartford, Connecticut, has released two requests for proposals seeking help in acquiring and maintaining its initial inventory of properties. Responses are due July 31, 2020.

The Land Bank invites qualified property maintenance firms to submit pricing information for services described in its Property Maintenance RFP.

The Land Bank seeks proposals for professional services to provide rehabilitation cost & timeline estimates and construction management in its Rehabilitation Specialist & Construction Management RFP.

To request a copy of either RFP, please email info@hartfordlandbank.org or call (860) 335-0347.

CITY OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The first semi-annual installment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2019, and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle List, were due and payable on July 1, 2020.

Failure to pay any tax due July 1, 2020, on or before August 3, 2020, will cause the tax to become delinquent and subject to interest, from the due date, at the rate of 1 ½ % per full or partial month. Any delinquent tax is subject to a minimum interest charge of two dollars (\$2.00).

Since failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or, in the event of delinquency, respective penalties, taxpayers who do not receive a bill by the end of the first full week of January should request a duplicate from the Division of Assessment and Collections.

Payments may be mailed to the address on the bills. Payments may also be made online at www.hartford.gov/tax or in the drop box located outside the Office of the Tax Collector, 550 Main Street, Room 106, Hartford, Connecticut, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and excluding holidays. Payments may also be made in person at the address above. Tax Office hours TBD for month of July and August 2020.

Nancy Raich, CCMC
Tax Collector
City of Hartford

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Lawrence W. Harris (20-00536)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated July 1, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas,
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Robin S. Harris
c/o Michael Patrick Deneen,
O'Malley, Deneen, Leary,
Messina, Oswee
20 Maple Avenue, P.O. Box 504,
Windsor, CT 06095

Who, Where, and When: Keeping track of the Mayoral Appointees

NOTE: Acting means temporarily filling in for the regular person while they are on leave. Interim means temporarily filling the position until a search is completed to fill it on a permanent basis.

APPOINTED DIRECTORS UNDER MAYOR BRONIN

Blight Director	Laura Settlemyer (2014-Jan 2020)	Michael Perez (Acting)	
Chief of Staff	Thea Montanez (1/2016- 1/2020)	Vasishth Srivastava (2/2020-)	
Chief Operating Officer	Darrell Hill (4/2014 – 6/2016) Thea Montanez (1/2020)	Bonnie J. Malley (6/2016-6/2017)	Ron Van Winkle (Interim) (1/2018-7/2018)
Communications	Samaia Hernandez (1/2016-03/2016)	Brett Broesder (3/2016-12/2016) Vasishth Srivastava (3/2017-1/2019)	Alexandra Beaudoin Open
Constituent Services	Janice Castle		
Development Services	Thomas Deller (4/2012-1/2016) Erik Johnson (10/2019- 6/2020)	Sean Fitzpatrick (1/2016- 1/2018) I. Charles Matthews (Acting 7/2020)	Kiley Gosselin (Acting 1/2018-8/2019)
Emergency Services & Telecommunications	Clayton Northgraves (2016-2017)	Mike Bruce (Interim)	Susan Webster (9/2017-)
Chief Finance Officer	Darrell Hill (7/2016 – 11/2017)	Melissa McGraw (12/2017-12/2019)	Jolita Lazauskas (Acting)
Fire Chief	Carlos Huertas (left 1/2016)	Reginald Freeman (2/2016-)	
Hartford Parking Authority	Eric Boone (2013-10/2017)	Arnindo Gomes (1/2018-)	
Health and Human Services	Gary Rhule (1/2016-9/2017)	Liany Arroyo (9/2017-)	
Human Resources Director	Henry Burgos (11/2013-1/2016) Steve Francis (Interim)	Debra Carabillo (acting) Thulani LeGrier (4/2020-)	Cherese Chery (3/2018-6/2019)
Metro Hartford Innovation Services	Sabina Sitaru (5/2013–12/2016)	Charisse Snipe (acting)	
Planning & Economic Development	Jamie Bratt (1/2016-11/2018)	Aimee Chambers (4/2019-)	
Police Chief	James Rovella (2012-2018)	David Rosado (2/2018-3/2019) Jason Thody (2/2020-)	Jason Thody (Interim 4/2019-2/2020)
Public Works	Keith Chapman (left 1/2016) Walter Veselka (11/2018-6/2020)	Marilyn Cruz-Aponte (1/2016-1/2017) Michael Looney (6/2020 Interim, nominated)	Reginald Freeman (Acting almost 2yrs)
Youth & Family Services	Kim Oliver		

C L A S S I F I E D A D S

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Hartford, North End

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Cambios De Inmigración Endurecerán Medidas Para Estudiantes Internacionales Durante La Pandemia

Los estudiantes internacionales con visas F-1 y M-1 deberán cambiar de programas o abandonar Estados Unidos si su actual centro de estudios está operando completamente en línea tras los cambios por la pandemia del coronavirus, anunció este lunes el Servicio de Inmigración y Ciudadanía (USCIS, por sus siglas en inglés).

La medida es parte de las modificaciones a las exenciones temporales para los estudiantes del semestre de otoño de 2020 del Programa de Estudiantes y Visitantes de Intercambio (SEVP).

"El Departamento de Estado de EEUU no otorgará visas a los estudiantes matriculados en escuelas o programas que estén completamente en línea durante el semestre de otoño ni la Aduana y Protección Fronteriza permitirá que estos estudiantes ingresen" al país, indica la agencia en un comunicado. Para los estudiantes activos actualmente dentro del país, USCIS recomienda que deben salir del país o tomen otras medidas, como transferirse a una escuela con clases en persona para permanecer en un estado legal.

"De lo contrario, pueden



enfrentar consecuencias de inmigración que incluyen, entre otras, el inicio de procedimientos de expulsión", apunta el escrito.

Para los estudiantes que estén en centros con una combinación de clases en persona y online, USCIS les permitirá tomar más de una clase o tres horas de crédito en línea. Estas escuelas deben certificar a SEVP, a través del Formulario I-20 "Certificado de elegibilidad para el estado de estudiante no inmigrante", que el programa no está completamente en

línea, que el estudiante no está tomando un curso totalmente digital y que el estudiante está tomando la cantidad mínima de clases en línea requeridas.

Las exenciones anteriores no se aplican a los estudiantes F-1 en programas de capacitación en idioma inglés o estudiantes M-1 que buscan títulos vocacionales, a quienes no se les permite inscribirse en ningún curso en línea.

Debido al COVID-19, SEVP instituyó una exención temporal con respecto a los cursos en línea para los semestres de primavera y verano, con lo que se permitió a los estudiantes tomar más cursos en línea de lo que normalmente permitido.

El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional planea publicar los procedimientos y las responsabilidades en el Registro Federal como una regla final temporal.

By Iris Rodriguez

CRCOG Avisos de Oferta

Todos los avisos de licitación para el Consejo de Compras de la Región del Capitolio están disponibles en <https://crcog.bonfirehub.com/>. CRCOG también está solicitando propuestas de servicios para Crumbling Foundations. Si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese con la oficina de CRPC 860-724-4292 o envíe un correo electrónico a crpcstaff@crcog.org. Las ciudades se reservan el derecho de rechazar cualquiera o todas las ofertas, o parte de cualquiera o todas las ofertas, si dicha acción se considera que es lo mejor para los pueblos.

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